



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

June 18, 2010

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On May 26, 2010, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) accepted the Department's revised *Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2009-1, Risk Assessment Methodologies at Defense Nuclear Facilities*. The Implementation Plan deliverables include the establishment of a Risk Assessment Technical Expert Working Group (RWG) to assist in the review and appropriate use of quantitative risk assessment to better inform nuclear safety decisions and the issuance of an Information Notice, *Risk Assessment in Support of Nuclear Safety*. Both of these documents have been previously provided to your staff informally. The purpose of this letter is to formally transmit the signed RWG Charter and the Information Notice as fulfillment of these Implementation Plan commitments.

The Department of Energy (DOE) steering group of the RWG is represented by members from all program offices with defense nuclear facilities, the Office of Health Safety and Security, the Chief of Nuclear Safety and the Chief of Defense Nuclear Safety. A Web Site for the RWG (<http://www.hss.energy.gov/nuclearsafety/ns/rawg/>) has been created, and the Risks Charter and Information Notice have been posted there. Some portions of the Web Site are still under construction and will be completed as the functions of the RWG mature.

The Information Notice, *Risk Assessment in Support of Nuclear Safety*, reiterates the Department's current policy on use of risk assessment in nuclear safety, notifies the field of the ongoing study to determine changes or additions needed to directives or standards to improve the use of risk assessment to better inform nuclear safety-related decisions and announces the availability of the RWG to support DOE line elements in evaluating plans for and the use of quantitative risk assessments.

We also acknowledge the helpful input from members of your staff in our efforts address these and other Recommendation 2009-1 commitments and look forward to



continued coordination with them and their insights as we develop the other deliverables. Please contact me at (202) 586-4996, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AWallo', is centered below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Andrew Wallo
Deputy Director
Office of Nuclear Safety, Quality Assurance
and Environment
Responsible Manager for Recommendation
2009-1

Attachment 1

Attachment 2